

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04528 141407Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-09 SP-02
SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /138 W
-----087839 142117Z /15

R 141229Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1604
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD POUCH
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS KUWAIT 4528

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, KU
SUBJECT: BURGAN OIL FIRE FINALLY DOUSED

REF: KUWAIT 3713

1. THE OIL AND GAS FIRE WHICH HAS RAGED FOR THE LAST SEVEN WEEKS AT THE KUWAIT OIL COMPANY (KOC) DEEP EXPLORATORY WELL, BG 399, IN THE BURGAN FIELD WAS SUCCESSFULLY QUENCHED AND THE WELL CAPPED AUGUST 12, 1978.
2. AN UNEXPECTED HIGH-PRESSURE FLOW OF GAS BROKE A RESTRAINING VALVE AT THE WELL AND CAUSED THE BLAZE JUNE 23, 1978, WHICH KUWAIT OIL MINISTER SHEIKH ALI KHALIFAH AL SABAH RECENTLY ESTIMATED MIGHT COST \$3.5 MILLION TO EXTINGUISH. CAPPING OPERATIONS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF RED ADAIR, THE
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OIL FIRE EXPERT, COMMENCED ONCE THE WELL FLOW SHOWED AN INCREASE IN WATER CONTENT AND THE PRESSURE OF THE WELL BORE DECLINED.

3. CURRENTLY, TWO FIRE MONITORS ARE IN PLACE ON SITE COOLING THE WELL EFFLUENTS AND THE REMAINS OF THE DRILLING RIG TO PREVENT A NEW FLAREUP. CREWS ARE WORKING TO

REPLACE THE WELLHEAD AND TO DRILL RELIEF WELLS AS BACK-
UP TO THE CAPPING OPERATION.

4. KOC INFORMATION CHIEF HAIDER AHAMAD REPORTED THAT
LATER IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PERMIT THE WELL TO FLOW
UNDER CONTROLLED CONDITIONS OR TO BE CLOSED IN AS THE
SITUATION THEN WARRANTS.
MAESTRONE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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